

adjacent to the end wall of the piston, this curved portion being considered the structure disclosed by applicant that can provide reinforcement of the strength of the end wall against the pressure applied to the outer end face." Office Action at p. 2. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because EP `339 actually shows the opposite of the structure claimed by the Applicants.

Pending claim 1 recites, inter alia, a piston with an end wall having an inner end face with a contour which "from the radially outside portion toward the radially inside portion, first approaches the outer end face and then departs from the outer end face" (emphasis added). In other words, the end wall is thinner at its outside than it is in its center. EP `339 discloses a structure that is the exact opposite of this. As shown in Figures 2 and 4, the radially outside portion of the end wall is thicker and it gradually narrows towards the center of the end wall. Accordingly, Applicants submit that EP `339 does not anticipate pending claim 1, and respectfully request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

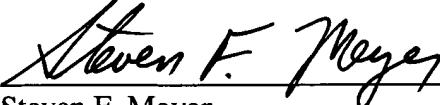
CONCLUSION

For these reasons, it is believed that all of the claims as currently presented, are patentable, and that this application is now in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 5000-4867.

Respectfully submitted,
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